

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are amended above to overcome the examiner's indefiniteness rejection. No new matter has been added to the application by these claims amendments.

The examiner's grounds for rejecting the application claims are overcome or they are traversed as set forth below.

I. THE 112 2nd PARAGRAPH REJECTION

The examiner rejected claims 1-19 for being indefinite under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph. The examiner's rejections have been overcome as set forth below.

- The examiner's rejection of claim 1 et al. has been overcome by canceling the word "and" in line 3 where it appears following the word "having" and inserting the word "an" in its place.
- The examiner's rejection of claim 7 is believed to be in error. The numbers reported in claim 7 are ratios of two weight percentages. Therefore, the numerals are not percentages and there is no reason to include a "percent" symbol following the numeral 16.7 at the end of claim 7.
- Claim 9 is amended above to include the word "abrasive" at the end of the claim.

II. THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

The examiner rejected claims 1-19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 10-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,432,828. This rejection is overcome by the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer related to U.S. Patent No. 6,432,828 contemporaneously with the filing of this Reply. A copy of the Terminal Disclaimer and Transmittal is included at

Appendix A of this Reply.

III. TRAVERSE OF THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected all pending application claims as being obvious over Kido et al. (USP 5,800,577).

Kido has a 102(e) date of July 17, 1997. The present application has an effective filing date of March 18, 1998. Included at Appendix B of this response is a Declaration of Vlasta Brusic Kaufman - one of the application inventors - establishing that the invention claimed in the parent application of the above-captioned U.S. patent application was conceived and reduced to practice before July 17, 1997. The Declaration applies equally to this application and establishes that Kido et al. is not prior art to the claimed invention. The Examiner's obviousness rejection of claims 1-19 should be withdrawn because it relies upon Kido et al which is not prior art to the presently claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

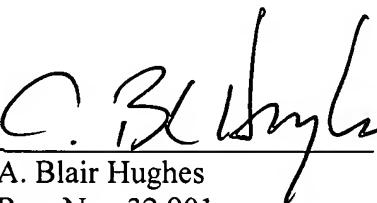
In view of the amendments and/or statements in favor of patentability presented above, it is believed that all pending claims 1-19 are patentable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending application claims is, therefore, courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert &
Berghoff LLP**

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By:


A. Blair Hughes
Reg. No. 32,901
312-913-2123
Hughes@mbhb.com